

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0002] of the Cross-Reference to Related Applications section of the specification with the revised paragraph presented below. The amended paragraph corrects typographical errors in the listing of the related applications and does not add any new matter to the original disclosure.

“[0002] The present application claims priority to provisional application, U.S. Serial No. 60/468,425, filed May 7, 2003 and is related to commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Applications Serial Nos. 10/135,316 filed April 29, 2002, which claims priority from U.S. Serial No. 60/310,617, filed August 7, 2001, U.S. Serial No. 09/745,304, filed 12/22/2000 which is a divisional of Serial No. 09/443,929, filed November 19, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,379,383, and U.S. Serial No. 10/289,974 and 10/289,843, both filed 11/6/2002 which are continuation applications of U.S. Serial No. 09/532,164, filed 3/20/2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,537,310.”

Please amend paragraph 72 beginning at page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

“As illustrated in Figure 13, the graft 60 preferably has a plurality of microperforations 266 passing through the wall surfaces of the graft body member 62 and communicating between the abluminal and luminal wall surfaces of the graft 60. Like the previously described embodiments of the inventive graft, the plurality of microperforations 266 in the inventive graft 60 may be formed of a wide variety of geometries and dimensions so as impart geometric compliance to the graft, geometric distendability to the graft and/or limit or permit the passage of body fluids or biological matter through the graft,

such as facilitating transmural endothelialization while preventing fluid flow through the wall of the graft under normal physiological conditions. The plurality of microperforations may also impart a fabric-like quality to the graft by imparting pliability and/or elastic, plastic or superelastic compliance to the graft, such as that required for longitudinal flexibility in the case of a vascular graft.”

Please amend paragraph 73 beginning at page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

“The plurality of microperforations 266 may be present along the entire longitudinal length of the graft body member 62 and about the entire circumferential axis of the graft member 62. Alternatively, the plurality of microperforations 266 may be present only in selected regions along either the longitudinal length or the circumferential axis of the graft body member 62. The positioning of the plurality of microperforations 266 62 may be selected based upon various criteria, including, without limitation, the indication of use of the graft, the anatomical placement of the graft, and whether the graft is surgically implanted and requires sutures or whether it is used endoluminally without sutures.”

Please amend paragraph 75 beginning at page 22 with the following amended paragraph:

“In one aspect of the inventive graft 70 the opposing end regions 71, 73 of the graft body member 72 may have a z-axis thickness that is either greater than or less than the z-axis thickness of the intermediate region 76. Additionally, a plurality of suture apertures 78 are provided and preferably pass through the

opposing ends 71, 73 of the graft 70 and permit sutures 79 to pass through the suture apertures 78 for purposes of affixing the graft 70 to anatomical structures in vivo. In one embodiment of the invention, the suture apertures/openings may have a generally cruciform-shaped slot pattern 78a or a generally Y-shaped slot pattern 78b.”

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. The three sheets, which together include FIGS. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, replace the original sheets, which together also include FIGS. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

In FIG. 12, reference number 63 is deleted.

In FIG. 13, reference number 66 is replaced with the number 266.

In FIG. 14, reference number 66 is deleted.

In FIG. 15, reference numbers 65 and 66 are deleted.

In FIG. 16, a suturing opening having a generally cruciform-shaped slot pattern and a suturing opening having a generally Y-shaped slot pattern are incorporated into the drawing. Reference numbers 78a and 78b denoting the foregoing slots patterns, respectively, are added to the drawing. Support for suturing openings having a generally cruciform-shaped or a Y-shaped slot pattern can be found in originally filed claims 9 and 10.

In FIG. 17, the terminal end regions (i.e., the opposing end regions 71 and 73) of the graft are amended to show the thickness of the undulating regions of the graft as being greater than that of the non-undulating regions. Because this feature is disclosed in originally filed claim 6 and illustrated in the informal drawing version of FIG. 17 submitted with the original application, the amendment is fully supported by the original disclosure and no new matter has been introduced.

Attachment: Three (3) Replacement Sheets

Three (3) Annotated Sheets showing changes